

**MINUTES OF
YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
September 2, 2009**

ATTENDEES:

**Alicia Sillars
Christine Wood
Meghan Moore
Diane Barston
Annie Maguire
Colin Pasquarella**

**Geoff Ball
Sarah Smith
Deb Ritchie
Jared Kindy
Lynnie Srother
Kyle Pasquarella**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM. Minutes of January meeting read and approved. Motion to approve by Geoff Ball and seconded by Diane Barston.

Summer Camp Update

This year's program was fantastic. 45% of registration was online probably as a result of the elimination of the reduced sibling rate that could only be given off line. 333 registered for camp, more children registered for all 6 weeks this year. Middle School Activity camp was full every week with a waiting list. For 3 of 4 programs there were wait lists by April.

TOPS registration

Packets were delivered with flyers to go home. Registration will be on line this year. Everyone can go to the website to download hard copies of forms. August 17th registration began and 68% occurred on line to date this year versus 10% on line last year. There is a little more work for the office staff due to increase to on line registration, but overall good results.

Events

Movie at the Beach Friday September 4th, Mall Cop_co sponsored with Parks and Rec.

TOPS

8th grade beach party on Friday, September 18th. 7th and 8th grade Tokeneke Fair night on Friday before fair. Last year there were too many inflatables due to restrictions with respect to parking lot. This year the set up will be one day earlier on Thursday evening so that the Friday inspection allows for the 7/8 grade night. There may be an issue due to the 8th graders trip to Boston since they will likely arrive home late the Friday evening. Considering switching some events to accommodate.

Window Painting on October 24, 2009

This year the cost to merchants will decrease to \$100 and windows will be marked into 6 ft by 6ft area to signify area to paint. Hopefully this will limit the amount of clean up and make event more equitable. Letter to last years participating merchants will go out in September.

New Programming Ideas

Karen Brennan suggested several new events including a Book Drive and pumpkin carving. Also discussed was the idea of a sports related activity to involve local fitness clubs as well as high school sports to involve youth participation. The older kids would teach the younger ones. This new event would possibly replace the Newington Children Theatre in April. We also discussed the Feed Our Children event on October 3rd and 4th at Middlesex Middle School. All local churches are asking for congregants' participation. Each volunteer would work in 2 hour shifts.

Other Topics

Alicia has been involved with the YMCA and other community organization to apply for a grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation totaling \$40,000. The grant would be used for programs to help develop a healthier Darien. There will be a conference from February 17-19 in Washington DC with Darien YMCA participating with 13 other organization. Also, there is a new administrator at the Depot.

Daniel Wood and Kyle Pasquarella were voted on to join the Youth Commission as a freshman representative and sophomore representative, respectively.

Submitted by
Deb Ritchie
For Angela Clark
Recording Secretary